

come to the Republican side. Help us help senior citizens.

#### SKYLAR BYRD, THE PRIDE OF THE D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the District rarely gets the opportunity to tell the countless good stories of its residents and its children. After all, in this tabloid society, success is boring. Failure is news. But some successes shine so brightly, they both capture and captivate.

Skylar Byrd, a District of Columbia public school student, made the news recently and made some history as well. Her perfect score on her SAT's when she was 15 got the attention it deserves. Skylar is a student at Banneker High School in the District.

Skylar's smart all right. But Skylar has more than her considerable talent going for her. She has a capacity for hard work, and a loving family. She also has a public school system that deserves a lot more credit than it gets. Perhaps Skylar's success can help illuminate the accomplishments of Banneker and the District of Columbia public schools and its students as well.

#### WAITING FOR THE DETAILS

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, some of us in the freshman and sophomore classes this morning met with Ross Perot, really, I think, an inspiration for saying that we have got to move ahead and do the kind of things that we know are right.

Mr. Speaker, he mentioned that, if we took all of the Fortune 500 companies, and we took all of their assets, all of their money, and sold all of their investments, it would pay off a deficit spending for 1 year. I mean we have got a serious problem ahead of us.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is great that the President is now saying we should have a balanced budget. I am waiting for the details. I think it is important that he gets the details up here so our conferees on the budget can look at some of his suggestions, some of this administration's suggestions, on where he cuts. He is saying that it is going to take reductions in Medicare and in Medicaid.

I say to my colleagues, Let's work together to make sure we preserve those programs, that we save them not only for this generation, but for future generations.

□ 1100

#### TRANSFERRING WEALTH FROM MIDDLE CLASS TO WEALTHY

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the concern with the cuts in the Medicare that are promised in the Republican budget that is now in the conference committee is that the simple fact is they are reaching into the Medicare system to make changes to slow the growth. They are using those changes and those savings that result from that to fund the tax cuts, half of which will go to the wealthiest people in this Nation.

Yesterday the Republican conference of House Members met and they reaffirmed their commitment to that tax cut. All that can tell us is they are willing to put at risk the health care of the senior citizens that are on that Medicare system today. For those families who are concerned about their own health care and the health care of their parents, it simply means that that system will not be shored up. But among the wealthiest people in this country, the savings from Medicare will be taken away from those people and transferred to those wealthy, just as they are taking away the earned income tax credit for low-income people who go to work but cannot get above the poverty line. They are going to reduce the earned income tax credit and give that to the wealthiest people.

This is the largest transfer of income and wealth from middle class to the wealthy in the history of this country, and it ought to be repudiated on Medicare and earned income tax credit.

#### PRESIDENT CHANGING COURSE, SEES NEED FOR BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate the President on accepting the need for a balanced budget.

In fact, I will resolve for this day to forget any differences I may have had with the President in the past.

I will not talk about the fact that the President has constantly fought Republican proposals to downsize the Federal Government.

I will not focus on how the President has consistently bad-mouthed Republican plans to save the Medicare system—which we all agree is going broke.

And finally, I will not even think about how the President has repeatedly bemoaned Republican proposals to cut taxes for working Americans.

No, I am going to forget those things today. Because, I know that just as the President has accepted the need for a

balanced budget, someday the President will change his mind and accept the need for a smaller Government, a revitalized Medicare system, and lower taxes.

#### SCARE MAIL ORGANIZATIONS DEFRAUDING SENIOR CITIZENS

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a few comments in a different vein. It arises because of concern for many of the senior citizens of this country, a group which I am on the verge of joining. Because I am on the verge of joining that group, I am beginning to get the mail which is often addressed to senior citizens, which I would call scare mail, but might more appropriately be called fraud mail.

It is mail that is intended to frighten them about what is happening in Congress and to encourage them to send these organizations money so that they can communicate to use the concern that senior citizens have about losing Medicare, about losing Social Security, about losing Federal pensions, or what have you.

It is a fraud. What brought this to mind is that recently a constituent sent me the \$5 that was intended to go to the organization that was soliciting money from him.

I want every senior citizen in this country to know, and every person in this country to know, you do not have to send money to any organization in order to get your message to us. Simply write us directly. I do not add any extra weight to a communication sent to me by one of these organizations. Constituents can write us directly and let us know. They do not have to send money to these fraudulent organizations.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TORKILDSEN). Pursuant to House Resolution 164 and rule XXIII, the chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1530.

□ 1103

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1530) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, with Mr. EMERSON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.